

IV. *On Pleurostict Lamellicorns from Grenada and St. Vincent (West Indies)*. By GILBERT J. ARROW, F.E.S.

[Read March 7th, 1900.]

THE Beetles here described form a small part of the collection made by Mr. H. H. Smith in 1889, 1890 and 1891. The families represented are Melolonthidæ, Rutelidæ and Dynastidæ, no member of the Cetoniidæ having been found. I am not aware that any species of these families have so far been recorded from Grenada or St. Vincent, so that the present collection, although including only a small number of species, is not without interest. The total number of species discovered is seventeen, of which eight are here described as new, the rest being, with one exception (a doubtful species of *Stratægus*), more or less common Central American insects. These are widely-distributed forms which may yet prove all to occur upon the more adjacent continent of South America.

It is remarkable that of the whole seventeen species, although considerable numbers of the majority were found, only two were discovered in both the islands, showing a difference in the Lamellicorn fauna which I am not aware has been noticed in any other group. As Mr. Smith seems to have collected in both islands at all seasons of the year, this difference can hardly be due to any accidental circumstance. The island of St. Vincent has yielded the whole of the Melolonthidæ and Rutelidæ, with the exception of a single specimen representing a new species, while Grenada shows a similar preponderance in the Dynastidæ.

The whole of the insects here referred to belong to genera well-known from the American mainland, two of which have not been previously recorded from the West Indies.

MELOLONTHIDÆ.

Lachnosterna patens, sp. n.

Crassa, obscure rufa vel nigro-rufa, pruinosa; capite lato, grosse punctato, clypeo crebrius punctato, nitido, bilobato, margine reflexo; prothorace quam elytra ad humeros angustiore, irregulariter grosse

TRANS. ENT. SOC. LOND. 1900.—PART I. (APRIL)

punctato, lateribus paulo arcuatis nec crenatis, scutello parce punctato; elytris crebre punctatis, propygidium non tegentibus, costa suturali lata et aliis indistinctis; propygidio crebre subtiliterque, pygidio multo grossius et parcius, punctato; pectore parce fulvo-villoso; tibiis anticis tridentatis; unguium omnium dente mediano, ramo superiori longitudine æquali et parallelo. Long. 22-24 mm.

♂ pygidii apice nitidiore et subtiliter ruguloso.

♀ pygidii apice late et profunde excavato.

Habitat. ST. VINCENT.

This insect closely resembles the Mexican *L. rugipennis* but differs from it by the absence of hair upon the pygidium and propygidium, by the peculiar depression upon the pygidium of the female and also by the form of the claws. An undescribed species from Trinidad in the British Museum is still more closely related and is described at the end of this paper in order that the two may be differentiated.

L. patens was attracted in numbers to light at night.

L. latens, sp. n.

Rufo-castanea, fulvo-pubescent, omnino crebre punctata; capite parvo, fusco, rugoso-punctato, fronte setoso, clypeo haud emarginato; prothorace rufo, nitido, lateribus subangulatim dilatatis; elytris vix pruinosis, cum scutello crebre punctatis, setis nonnullis longibus; pygidio triangulari, nitido, grosse punctato, setis brevibus erectis parce vestito; corpore subtus parce, pectore densius, fulvo-piloso; unguis dente cum dilatatione basali conjuncto. Long. 16-17 mm.

Habitat. ST. VINCENT.

This is apparently very similar to *Lachnosterna nitidicollis*, Bl., described from Southern Brazil, which is however according to the author somewhat sericeous and with a clothing of fine hairs upon the elytra. The insects before me are merely slightly pruinose upon the abdomen and elytra, and the hairy clothing is not perceptible upon the greater part of the elytra, although fairly thick upon the rest of the body. Had not Blanchard's species been recorded from so distant a region I should have had more hesitation in separating the present one.

A number of specimens were found beneath decaying leaves at Chateaubelais.

Plectris lignicola, sp. n.

Rufo-fusca, clypeo, pedibus corporeque subtus ferrugineis, undique fulvo-setosa, supra rugoso-punctata; clypeo paulo profunde arcuato-emarginato; prothoracis lateribus post medium valde dilatatis antice angustatis, angulis acutis, posticis rotundatis; scutello æquilaterali; elytris subcostatis vix membranaceo-marginatis; tibiis anticis bidentatis, tarsorum posticorum articulo primo duobus sequentibus longitudine æquali. Long. 8-9 mm.

Habitat. ST. VINCENT.

This is a small and somewhat elongate species without a trace of metallic lustre. It was found in rotten wood.

Plectris fungicola, sp. n.

Fusca vel rufo-fusca, supra plus minusve metallico-nitens, undique subtiliter ruguloso-punctata, fulvo-sericea; clypeo fere nudo, grosse punctato, antice valde angustato profunde atque angulariter emarginato; prothorace nitidiore, angulis anticis fere rectis, posticis rotundatis, marginis postici medio valde lobato; scutello lato, apice obtuso; elytris subcostatis, marginibus membranaceis tenuibus; pygidio dense rugoso-punctato; antennis 10-articulatis, longis, flavis, articulis 3°-6° elongatis; tarsorum, posticorum articulo primo longitudine aliquis fere æquali.

♂ pallidior, vix metallicus, plus elongatus (prothorax præcipue), antennarum clava quam articulis aliquis (primo excepto) longiore, palpis maxillaribus attenuatis, pedibus posticis longe ac dense vestitis. Long. 10-12 mm.

Habitat. ST. VINCENT.

This insect was found in fungi. It may be at once distinguished from the previous one by the broad scutellum, the deeper emargination of the clypeus, the much longer first joint of the hind tarsi, etc. It is closely related to the Amazonian *Pseudoserica longitarsis* of Bates, although differing from it in numerous points of detail.

Although congeneric with the latter, I have preferred to use the generic name *Plectris* for these two insects as, even if Bates' attempt to divide that genus should prove adequate upon consideration of the whole mass of known species, which there seems reason to doubt, his adoption of the old name *Pseudoserica* is, I believe, due to an error, for the insect which I regard as the true *Pseudoserica marmorca*, Guérin, represents a peculiar genus exhibiting none of the characteristics cited by Bates.

These two species are the first representatives of this large group so far recorded from any of the West India Islands.

A noticeable point is the apparent rarity of the males of *Plectris*. Among ten specimens from St. Vincent there is a single male of one of the species only and a similar disproportion seems to occur in other species. The various characteristics peculiar to this sex are also remarkable. An upper surface distinctly less glossy than that of the female seems to be of general occurrence, and besides this and its more elongate form the male of *P. fungicola* is distinguished by the elongation of its maxillary palpi and the dense clothing of long hairs upon its hind tarsi. Other species show an extraordinary development of the posterior tibial spurs.

RUTELIDÆ.

Anomala inconstans, Burm.

Six specimens of this insect, which seems very liable to local variation, were found at St. Vincent. Although showing all degrees of coloration they all belong to a variety very near that mentioned by Bates from Chiriqui (Panama), having prominent costæ and narrow interstices to the elytra. They are also rather smaller than continental specimens. Examples of the same variety have been brought from the neighbouring island of Santa Lucia.

Chlorota tristis, sp. n.

Ovata, nigra, capite, prothorace scutelloque paulo æneo; mandibulis valde acutis, clypeo leviter acuminato, dimidio anteriore sculpturato, fronte et scutello fere impunctatis, prothorace crebre sed subtilissime punctato, margine posteriore leviter lobato, scutello medioere; elytris fortiter striatis, striis punctatis, interstitio primo lato, grosse punctato, marginibus posterioribus rugosis, fusco-rufis; pygidio subtiliter striolato; pectore sparse hirto, processu mesosternali brevi acuto. ♂ (pedis antici ungue divisio). Long. 25 mm.

Habitat. ST. VINCENT.

C. tristis is a deeply striated insect intermediate in appearance between *C. chalconota* and *C. metallica*, being of about the size and shape of the former but rather more depressed and without its thick hairy clothing. It is at once recognizable, however, by its sombre colour. It is a

true *Chlorota* in the strict sense, exhibiting a lobed prothorax, small scutellum and slight mesosternal process. The single specimen found by Mr. Smith is the first of this genus hitherto discovered in the archipelago.

Pelidnota relutipes, sp. n.

Elongata, castaneo-aenea, prothoracis disco, tibiarum apicibus, abdominis lateribus pygidioque viridioribus, tarsis nigris, capite undique punctato, clypei margine leviter sinuato; prothorace disco subtiliter, lateribus fortiter, punctato, distincte marginato (marginis anterioris medio excepto), marginibus fere rectilinearibus medio angulatis; scutello vix punctato; elytris striato-punctatis, lateribus multo grossius; pygidio subtiliter striolato, nudo; pectore sparse piloso. Long. 25 mm.

♂ tibiis posterioribus compressis, intus dense erecte brunneo-pilosis, marginibus superioribus non dentatis.

Habitat. GRENADA, Balthazar.

A single male specimen only was found of this species, which is easily distinguishable from all others by its colour and especially by the peculiar hind tibiae, which are no doubt characteristic of this sex only. They recall those of the male *Chalcoplethis* to which this insect otherwise shows a close relationship. They are not elongated, however, but are covered on their inner surface with a thick brush of erect hairs.

There is an allied species, apparently undescribed, from Trinidad, of which I have not seen the male, but the female has the hind legs of the normal type.

Leucothyreus vincentia, sp. n.

Fusco-cupreus, nitidus, pedibus pallidioribus, corpore subtus pygidioque lateribus albido-squamosis; capite, prothorace scutelloque distincte punctatis, elytris crebre sublineato-punctatis, punctis minutissime setiferis; pygidio grosse striolato; tibiis anticis acute tridentatis. Long. 9-11 mm.

♂ pedibus flavis, tarsis anticis valde dilatatis.

♀ latior, pedibus ferrugineis, clypeo fortius punctato.

Habitat. ST. VINCENT.

This insect is very near *L. guadulpiensis*, Burm., which is known to me only by description. It appears to be rather larger and the anterior tarsi are in both sexes distinctly three-toothed, nor is there any perceptible

sexual difference in the puncturation or the minute setæ upon the elytra. The species, of which I have seen more than forty examples, is in general very constant in size, although the female is slightly larger than the male. Two male specimens, however, are considerably larger (13 millimetres) than the dimensions given above. There are perhaps other slight differences, but until these are confirmed by further specimens it seems inadvisable to regard them as specific.

Leucothyreus vincentiæ was found very abundantly in fungi about the month of December. In June a few specimens (males) were found beneath decaying leaves.

DYNASTIDÆ.

Cyclocephala signata, Drury.

This species, very common in Central America, ranges as far as the states on the northern border of South America. Mr. Smith's specimens which were found only in Grenada, where they flew in abundance to light, show, at least in size, the nearest affinity to those from the latter. The insect has an evident tendency to form local races and the Grenadan individuals are as a whole more marked with black than usual.

C. dimidiata, Burm.

This also occurred in Grenada alone, coming in numbers to the light at night. It has hitherto only been recorded from Central America and Lower California.

C. vincentiæ, sp. n.

Precedenti valde affinis, ovata, rufo-castanea vel nigro-castanea, supra partim aut toto nigra, prothorace cum pygidio sæpe rufis elytrisque ad basin et prope margines laterales dilutius brunneis; clypeo paulo longo, trapezoidali, truncato, ad marginem excepto fortiter punctato, fronte rare punctato, prothorace nitido, subtiliter punctato; elytris sublineato-punctatis; pygidio minute granuloso; pedum anticorum tibiis fortiter tridentatis, ♂ ungue interno fortiter lobato. Long. 9-12½ mm.

Habitat. ST. VINCENT.

This insect, one of the very few members of its large genus which depart from the usual testaceous ground-colour, is evidently the representative in St. Vincent of

the last species, *C. dimidiata*, to which it is very closely related. In structure and puncturation it is exactly similar, but the colouring, although very variable, is always entirely different to that of the older species, and the clypeus is perhaps a trifle more elongate. Although found in great abundance it does not seem to have the habit of coming to light like that insect. The apparent rarity of the male is remarkable, for of forty-three specimens which I have examined three only are males.

Ligyris tumulosus, Burm.

Many specimens were found in St. Vincent. The West Indies appear to be the headquarters of this, although it also occurs upon the mainland. There are specimens in the British Museum from Porto Rico, St. Bartholomew, Nevis, Guadaloupe and Barbados. Its seeming absence from Grenada is strange in view of this wide distribution in the archipelago.

Stratægus julianus, Burm.

A single female was brought from Grenada which apparently belongs to this common continental species.

Stratægus, sp.

Two specimens, also females, from the same island belong to *S. fascinus*, Burm., or a species near it, but, with our present knowledge, the members of this genus can only with certainty be determined from male specimens.

Both these species were found in rotting wood.

Philcurus dilymnus, L.

Three specimens were found in Grenada and St. Vincent. This common insect does not appear to have been hitherto authentically recorded outside of Central America. It occurs, however, as far south as Brazil and has been brought from Dominica and Trinidad.

P. vulgaris, L.

St. Vincent and Grenada. This is a very widely-distributed species ranging from Texas to Brazil, and it is probably universal in the West Indies.

P. 4-tuberculatus, Beauv.

Two specimens of this were discovered in Grenada. The species has been recorded from Cuba and a specimen in the British Museum is from San Domingo.

These three species of *Phileurus* were all attracted by light at night.

Lachnosterna trinitatis, sp. n.

Elongata, castanea, leviter pruinosa; capite lato, crebre punctato, clypeo nitido, bilobato, margine reflexo; prothorace parvo, punctato, lateribus areuatis vix crenatis; scutello parce punctato; elytris creberrime punctatis, fere ad extremitates dilatantibus, costa suturali tenui; propygidio crebre subtiliterque, pygidio grossissime, punctatis, hoc nitido; pectore parce fulvo-villoso; tibiis anticis tridentatis, unguium omium dente mediano, ramo superiori longitudine aequali et parallelo. Long. 22 mm.

♂ pygidio obsolete longitudinaliter sulcato.

♀ pygidii apice profunde excavato, fossæ lateribus elevatis.

Habitat. TRINIDAD, Cronstadt.

This species is very nearly related to *L. patens* above described but is rather smaller. The elytra are more densely punctured, the sutural costæ are distinctly narrower and the rest of the elytra almost without relief. The two species are also distinguishable by the pygidium which, besides the sexual differences described, is more shining in the present insect.

APRIL 26, 1900.